

Order PSEUDOPHIDIA.

Fam. CÆCILIIDÆ.

Genus ICHTHYOPHIS.

Ichthyophis glutinosus, Gray.

Since the publication of 'Prod. Faunæ Zeylanicæ,' we have collected several large and small specimens near rivulets on the hills of Kaduganava, Kandyan Province. They are generally seen crawling on mud after rain. They feed on small earth-worms. We have not yet succeeded in securing a "tadpole" of this reptile. The pale lines seen in specimens preserved in spirits are of a pale *yellow* colour in fresh specimens, very distinctly marked even in young animals.

IV.—*Note on Spadix purpurea*, Gosse.

By Professor EDWARD FORBES, F.R.S. &c.

I TAKE some blame to myself for not having two months ago called attention to the fact that this most curious and interesting creature, or one very near it, had already received a generic and specific denomination from the illustrious Sars. Before Mr. Gosse published his account of it, that excellent naturalist kindly sent me a specimen, which accidentally arrived in a bad state for examination. I recognised, however, its probable identity with a curious zoophyte found by Mr. Cocks and Mr. Alder, and of which I had a good outline drawing in my possession, sent me by Mr. Alder in 1847. Unfortunately its discoverers delayed publishing any account of it.

In a valuable paper by Sars, entitled "Beretning om en i Sommeren 1849 foretagen zoologisk Reise i Lofoten og Finmarken," published I believe originally in the 'Christiania Journal' (though, having only a separate copy, I cannot speak to the exact date), is the following generic description, among his list of Polyypes of the group of *Anthozoa* (p. 14):—

"*Myriothela arctica*, S., nov. genus et sp. (a *μυρίος*, innumabilis, et *θηλή*, papilla). Character generis: Animal solitarium, nudum, cylindraceum, affixum, superne tentaculis numerosis brevibus sparsis apice globoso, ore terminali; inferne gemmis globosis breviter pedicellatis, racematim coacervatis."

Then follows a brief remark in Norwegian on its distinctions from *Coryne* and *Syncoryna*; and the statement that it was found at Tromsö in a depth of from 20 to 30 fathoms, attached to a stone with *Sertularia*.

It is enumerated in his list between *Hydractinea carnea* and *Syncoryna ramosa*.

I need not say that I was unacquainted with this passage when I received the communication from Mr. Gosse, to whom, I believe, in my reply I mentioned the likelihood of his animal being identical with that discovered by Mr. Cocks and Mr. Alder.

In the paper referred to are many notices of new marine animals, including several zoophytes, to which the attention of the explorers of our seas might well be directed.

The fact of the occurrence of the *Bryarea Scolopendra* in the British seas was first made known by myself, in a communication to the Wernerian Society in 1840; and at the Meeting of the British Association in 1849, when Dr. Ball gave an account of its discovery in Ireland, much information was communicated by several naturalists present respecting this very beautiful and still anomalous animal.

V.—*Description and Illustrations of new species of Verrucaria and Sagedia found about Torquay, Devonshire.* By RICHARD DEAKIN, M.D.

[With Four Plates.]

VERRUCARIA, PERS.

Apothecia globose, enclosed within or protruded above the thallus. *Nucleus* gelatinous, enveloped in a tunic, and entirely or partly covered with a black or brownish *perithecium* (not contracted into a neck), perforated with a minute or dilated pore, and often papillated at the apex. *Sporidia* in asci. *Thallus* horizontal, crustaceous.

V. neglecta. (Plate I. fig. 1.)

Thallus crustaceous, a dark dull olive-green, warty and uneven, unequally cracked, upon a black substratum, indeterminate; *apothecia* numerous, crowded, black, immersed, conico-hemispherical, with a naked subpapillated apex and large open pore; *perithecium* dimidiate; *nucleus* brown, in a black tunic; *sporidia* small, oblong, single-celled.

Thallus in large, spreading, indeterminate patches, of a dark dull olive-green, uneven, warty, and more or less granulated, irregularly cracked, becoming greener and continuous when moistened, here and there showing the black substratum which forms a thin layer beneath the whole, and often forms a margin beyond the edge of the outer coat. When the plant is grown in shady places and not exposed to the sun, it has a much more powdery appearance, is continuous, not cracked, and in this state closely resembles the *V. trachona*, Tayl. *Apothecia* numerous, crowded, black, at first entirely covered by the thallus and hemispherical, becoming more conical and naked at the apex, often